

News Release

Farm Credit Administration
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FCA Chairman Receives Honorary Doctorate Degree from Northern Illinois University

McLEAN, Va., May 17, 2011 — Leland A. Strom, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Farm Credit Administration (FCA), has received the Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Northern Illinois University. The award was presented on May 13 at the NIU Graduate School commencement ceremony.

Lisa C. Freeman, vice president for Research and Graduate Studies at NIU, called Mr. Strom an "outstanding public servant" and a "distinguished resident of Illinois." She said the award recognized him "for his commitment to sustaining agricultural systems and food security."

"I am deeply honored that NIU has found me worthy of this recognition," said Chairman Strom. "Situated in the rich agricultural region of Northern Illinois just an hour west of Chicago, NIU has grown into a world-class university that attracts students from around the globe."

Mr. Strom was appointed to a six-year term on the FCA Board by President George W. Bush in 2006. He was designated Chairman and CEO in May of 2008.

From 2000 to 2006, Mr. Strom served on the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago Advisory Council on Agriculture, Labor, and Small Business. He has also held numerous leadership roles in the agriculture sector at the local, state, and national levels.

In his community of Kane County, Ill., which lies at the edge of suburban Chicago, Mr. Strom helped develop a farmland preservation program. The original Strom Family Farm was the first to be dedicated to permanent agricultural use under the program.

NIU awards a select number of honorary degrees to recognize the accomplishments of individuals who have excelled in fields of endeavor valued by the university and who have made significant contributions to society. Former recipients of NIU honorary degrees include former U.S. Speaker of the House J. Dennis Hastert, historian Arthur Schlesinger, U.S. Sen. Paul Simon, poet Gwendolyn Brooks, and astronomer Carl Sagan.

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The Farm Credit Administration is the safety and soundness regulator of the cooperative Farm Credit System and the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation (Farmer Mac). FCA charters, regulates, and examines the 96 banks, associations, service corporations and special-purpose entities of the Farm Credit System, which makes loans to agricultural producers and their cooperatives nationwide. This includes Farmer Mac, which provides a secondary market for agricultural real estate loans, rural housing mortgage loans, and certain rural utility loans. Members of the FCA Board are Leland A. Strom, Chairman and CEO; Kenneth A. Spearman; and Jill Long Thompson.

Note: FCA news releases are available on the Web at www.fca.gov.